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## Clinic teaches traditional Native games

The International Traditional Games Society (ITGS) will lead a three-day certification clinic at Glacier Park Lodge in East Glacier Park. With three levels of training, the clinic will accommodate individuals new to traditional games or returning students desiring to expand their knowledge.

Organizers believe the games can help Native American elders and youth restore cultural identity by promoting mental, physical, social, and spiritual health; they also teach survival skills and encourage unity in the clan, family, band and tribe.

During the clinic, Level I students will learn games of intuition and physical skill, study the historical significance of the games and learn how to craft pieces for more than 20 games. Level II students will craft additional game pieces, including an atlatl and snow snake, and learn more about the neuroscience of play. Level III participants will assist with teaching and be provided with a mentor for self-analysis of Native games knowledge.

The fee of \$250 covers one adult and one youth 8-18 years old. Supplies and tools will be provided. To register, email [games@traditionalnativegames.org](mailto:games@traditionalnativegames.org).

## The circle and the drum

The circle is an important symbol to Native Americans. You will see at many large powwows that the dancers are in the center of a circle, the drums and the audience form a circle around them, and the concessions and encampment form another circle around the gathering. This is symbolic of the life cycle. The powwow brings the circle of people closer to their family, friends and Native American culture.

The drum is more than just a musical instrument to those who own and play it; it has its own life. Some drum groups have gone through ceremonies and have had their drums blessed and named. The drum has its own powerful spirit. Gifts are made to the drum and some drums have their own sacred medicine pipes. In some traditions, the drum symbolizes the heartbeat; in others, the powerful medicine of thunder.

— From *Your Guide to Understanding and Enjoying Powwows* at [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov)

## Powwow season is here!

Interested in exploring your surroundings this summer? Visiting Indian reservations is a fantastic way to explore Native art, culture, history and heritage. Powwows on the horizon include:

- White River Cheyenne Indian Days, June 22 in Busby (406-592-3252)
- Badlands Celebration, June 27-29 in Brockton (406-768-7684)
- Arlee Fourth of July Celebration, July 2-6 in Arlee (406-275-2727)
- Northern Cheyenne Fourth of July Powwow, July 3-6 in Lame Deer (406-477-6284)
- Valley of the Chiefs Powwow and Rodeo, July 4-6 in Lodge Grass (406-638-3525)

## Congratulations to ...

**Darrell Norman** (Blackfeet), who was honored with the 2014 Artist in Business Leadership Fellowship. The fellowships represent mid-career artists who have demonstrated a commitment to pursue their art as a career.

Norman, owner and founder of the Lodgepole Gallery and Tipi Village in Browning, has been selling his mixed-medium art for more than 35 years. He plans to renovate his existing studio space and improve the outdoor area surrounding his gallery by putting up

new signs and a fence, improving the tipi camp and re-graveling the driveway.

Norman (Ee-nees-too-wah-see/Buffalo Body) is a traditional artist, dancer, singer and enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe. He is also a member of the ancient Blackfeet Thunder Pipe Society and Crazy Dog Society. He serves on the board of the Blackfeet Development Reservation Fund and Friends of the Museum of the Plains Indian.

For more information on the Lodgepole Gallery & Tipi Village visit: [www.blackfeet-culturecamp.com](http://www.blackfeet-culturecamp.com)

**Monte Yellow Bird** (Arikara/Hidatsa), who was selected to be part of the SWAIA/Santa Fe Art Institute Residency Program during the summer of 2014. The residency



Men's Fancy Dance at Crow Fair (Photo by Dyani Bingham).

is a unique opportunity for artists to create work in Santa Fe before, after, and during Indian Market.

Residents create, share, interact and exchange ideas within the communal living and studio spaces of the world-renowned Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) with artists and writers from around the world.

Yellow Bird is a painter/ledger artist from Wilsall. He studied fine arts at both IAIA (Institute of American Indian Arts) and Minot State University. He has participated in artist-in-residence programs at the Eiteljorg Museum and the Paris Gibson Square Museum. His work is currently part of the Mud Pony Traveling Exhibit and is on display at the Holter Museum in Helena. Yellow Bird uses various First Nation icons and scenes of daily life in his paintings and ledger works to carry on the memory of his Native ancestors.

Learn more at [blackpintoartfinearts.com](http://blackpintoartfinearts.com).

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for *State of the Arts*

## First People's Fund seeks nominations for Community Spirit Awards

The Community Spirit Awards are national fellowships awarded to American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian artists. The First Peoples Fund chooses honorees for their commitment to sustaining the cultural values of native people.

The process of bringing spirit back to community is an important responsibility for artists – it is part of a sacred honor system. The First Peoples Fund works to strengthen that honor system by recognizing these exceptional artists for knowing themselves, honoring others, and

sustaining spirit in their own communities.

Nominees must be:

- Practicing artists of demonstrated maturity in their field (in addition to visual arts, First Peoples recognizes contemporary and traditional forms of performing and literary arts);
- Continually practicing artists for a minimum of 10 years; and
- Documented affiliate of a United States tribe (Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian artists included).

Fellowships will be awarded to artists who demonstrate:

- An artistic practice that

passes on the traditions and the life ways of the people;

- A commitment to building the strength of native communities by sharing their skills and talents with others in their respective communities; and

- Deeply rooted and direct ties to their tribal community.

**Deadline for nominations is July 1:** Nominate online at [www.firstpeoplesfund.org](http://www.firstpeoplesfund.org) or send a postcard including complete names and addresses of both nominee and nominator to P.O. Box 2977, Rapid City, SD 57709. Nominated candidates must be from an American Indian community.

Applications will be mailed out after nomination deadline has passed.

**Selection process and expectations:** A national selection committee will review nominees and select awardees from those that meet the outlined qualifications. Fellowship recipients will receive \$5,000 designed to give them the opportunity to “practice their art.”

## IN PRINT

### *Off the Path: An Anthology of 21st Century Montana American Indian Writers (Volume 1)*

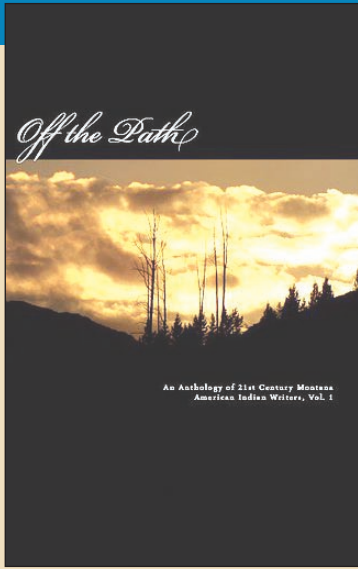
Edited by Adrian L. Jawort

Published February 2014 by Off the Pass Press LLC, Billings  
\$12.95 softcover; \$5.99 Kindle

Off the Path is a new collection that showcases the talents of Montana's top contemporary American Indian writers.

Editor and contributor Adrian Jawort is a Northern Cheyenne and lifelong Montanan. A journalist for more than 12 years, he has written for various indie newspapers, several nationally distributed publications, and is a correspondent and columnist for Indian Country Today Media Network. He also has a dark fantasy novel under his belt, *Moonrise Falling*, and is the founder of Off the Pass Press, which aims to find unconventional beauty in literature off the beaten path.

The four other contributors are Cinnamon Spear, a Northern Cheyenne writer and documentary filmmaker; Luella N. Brien, Apsáalooké, who graduated from The University of Montana School of Journalism in 2006, and was the first student editor and contributor for UM's trailblazing [reznetnews.org](http://reznetnews.org); Eric L. Big-Man Brien, a member of the Crow (Apsáalooké) Tribe who, when



not writing, moonlights as an Elvis impersonator; and Sterling HolyWhiteMountain, who grew up on the Blackfeet Reservation, and is a graduate of The University of Montana and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and was a James C. McCreight Fiction Fellow at the University of Wisconsin. He's currently working on a collection of novellas and stories, while working toward a bachelor's in Native American Studies at UM.

BigMan Brien told the *Big Horn County News* that the

anthology shows that the stories of Native Americans didn't end in the Old West and boarding schools. “Our lives and our stories have continued to this day,” he said. “And I feel it's important that people know our story is ongoing.”

For more about Off the Path, visit [www.offthepasspressllc.com](http://www.offthepasspressllc.com).